



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE APPLAUDS EPA FUNDING TO CLEAN UP FIELDS POINT & LOUTTIT LAUNDRY IN PROVIDENCE

EPA approves \$200,000 Grants for Johnson & Wales & City of Providence

PROVIDENCE, RI – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today praised the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approving a \$200,000 brownfields grant to clean up Fields Point in Providence. The funds will be used by Johnson & Wales University to remediate contaminated soil at its Harborside Campus, once the site of a shipyard and train maintenance area.

"I am delighted that EPA has approved Johnson & Wales University's application to clean up a long-vacant brownfield at Fields Point," Senator Chafee said. "The University has brought tremendous energy to a valuable corner of Providence, and I look forward to seeing the property transformed as part of a vibrant college campus."

Johnson & Wales originally sought federal brownfields funding for the remediation work in 2003, but was ineligible for a grant because it acquired the Fields Point property just before the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfield Revitalization Act was signed into law. This legislation, authored by Senator Chafee, created several federal programs to help states and municipalities investigate and clean up underutilized and possibly contaminated sites.

In November 2004, Senator Chafee successfully attached a provision to the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act, amending the Brownfields Law to broaden the definition of a "bona fide prospective purchaser." This amendment made eligible for funding a number of purchasers -- including Johnson & Wales University -- that would otherwise have qualified, except that their date of acquisition preceded the date of the enactment of the law.

(more)

Johnson & Wales plans to redevelop part of the 100-acre parcel as a campus with student housing, walking and jogging trails, field and track facilities and greenspace. These funds will also be used to cap the site - where soil contaminants include arsenic, lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons - and conduct community outreach.

EPA also announced that the City of Providence will receive a \$200,000 grant to help clean up the former Louttit Laundry site on Cranston Street. Senator Chafee visited the site on January 22, 2002 to celebrate the enactment of the Brownfields Law. A former dry cleaning facility, Louttit has been vacant since 1987. These funds will be used to design and operate systems to clean the groundwater and vent contaminated soils, eliminating a health risk to the community and removing an obstacle to economic development in the area.

“I am pleased that a property with great potential in the west end of Providence, the Louttit Laundry site, will receive money that will help pave the way for it to be put to productive use,” added Chafee.

A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

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